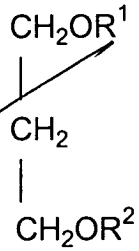


wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of fatty acid acyl groups of 12 to 30 carbon atoms and fatty alcohol groups of 12 to 30 carbon atoms, and wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, fatty acid acyl of 12 to 30 carbon atoms and fatty alcohol groups of 12 to 30 carbon atoms, [which may be] the same as or different from R^1, and the residue of a nutrient, drug, or other bioactive compound.

30. (Amended) The compound according to claim 27, [further comprising] which comprises a phosphate, succinate, or other difunctional acid linking moiety between R^1 and the corresponding diol oxygen, between R^2 and the corresponding diol oxygen, or both.

34. (Amended) The compound according to claim 27, wherein R^2 is the residue of a drug or other bioactive compound to be transported across lipid membranes in the body, wherein said lipid membranes are cellular, intracellular, or form a part of the skin, or blood-brain[, or other] barrier.

57. (Amended) A method for treating a disorder selected from the group consisting of complications of diabetes; cancer; osteoarthritis; rheumatoid arthritis; inflammatory and auto-immune diseases other than rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis; respiratory diseases; neurological disorders; renal and urinary tract disorders; cardiovascular disorders; degenerative diseases of the eye; psychiatric disorders; prostatic hypertrophy and prostatitis; impotence and male infertility; mastalgia; male pattern baldness; osteoporosis; dermatological disorders; dyslexia; [and other] learning disabilities; and cancer cachexia; comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the compound of claim 27.

59. (Amended) The method according to claim 57, wherein said disorder is an inflammatory and autoimmune diseases other than rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis selected from the group consisting of Sjogren's syndrome, systemic lupus, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, and uveitis.

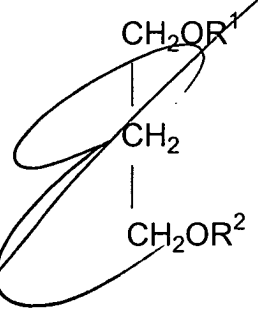
65. (Amended) The method according to claim 57, wherein said disorder is selected from the group consisting of complications of diabetes; neurological disorders; cardiovascular disorders; degenerative diseases of the eye; psychiatric disorders; dermatological disorders; [and] dyslexia; and [other] learning disabilities; and wherein R^1 is arachidonic acid (AA) and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of γ-linolenic acid

(GLA), dihomo-γ-linolenic acid (DGLA), arachidonic acid (AA), eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA).

66. (Amended) The method according to claim 57, wherein said disorder is selected from the group consisting of cancer; osteoarthritis; rheumatoid arthritis; inflammatory and auto-immune diseases other than rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis; respiratory diseases; neurological disorders; renal and urinary tract disorders; cardiovascular disorders; degenerative diseases of the eye; psychiatric disorders; osteoporosis; dermatological disorders; dyslexia; [and other] learning disabilities; and cancer cachexia; and wherein R^1 is eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA).

Please add the following new claim:

--93. A compound having the following 1,3-propane diol linked structure:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are pairs of fatty acids selected from the group of pairs of fatty acids consisting of:

γ-linolenic acid and oleic acid; γ-linolenic acid and γ-linolenic acid ; eicosapentaenoic acid and eicosapentaenoic acid; γ-linolenic acid and eicosapentaenoic acid; γ-linolenic acid and docosahexaenoic acid; arachidonic acid and docosahexaenoic acid; arachidonic acid and eicosapentaenoic acid; γ-linolenic acid and arachidonic acid; γ-linolenic acid and stearidonic acid; stearidonic acid and docosahexaenoic acid; arachidonic acid and stearidonic acid; dihomo-γ-linolenic acid and dihomo-γ-linolenic acid; dihomo-γ-linolenic acid and γ-linolenic acid; dihomo-γ-linolenic acid and stearidonic acid; dihomo-γ-linolenic acid and arachidonic acid; dihomo-γ-linolenic acid and eicosapentaenoic acid; dihomo-γ-linolenic acid and docosahexaenoic acid; arachidonic acid and arachidonic acid; eicosapentaenoic acid and stearidonic acid; eicosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid; docosahexaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid; conjugated linoleic acid and conjugated linoleic acid; conjugated linoleic acid and γ-linolenic acid; conjugated linoleic acid and dihomo-γ-linolenic acid ; conjugated linoleic acid and arachidonic acid; conjugated linoleic acid and stearidonic acid; conjugated linoleic acid and eicosapentaenoic acid; conjugated linoleic acid and docosahexaenoic acid; columbinic acid and columbinic acid; columbinic acid and γ-linolenic acid; columbinic acid and dihomo-γ-linolenic acid; columbinic acid and arachidonic acid; columbinic acid and stearidonic acid; columbinic acid and eicosapentaenoic acid; and columbinic acid and docosahexaenoic acid.--